

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 10370

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FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' MEETING WITH PRESIDENT VELASCO

1. FOLLOWING PROTOCOLARY GREETING OF PRESIDENT VELASCO BY ALL DELEGATIONS HERE FOR AYACUCHO CELEBRATION, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS WAS GRANTED PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH VELASCO. ALSO PRESENT WERE FONMIN DE LA FLOR, MILITARY HOUSEHOLD CHIEF GEN. IBANEZ, AMBASSADOR DEAN AND GARY CHAFIN.

2. VELASCO BEGAN CONVERSATION WITH REFERENCE TO ROGERS' ARRIVAL STATEMENT WHICH HE HAD SEEN ON TV. PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH ROGERS' DELIVERY IN SPANISH (HE APPROVINGLY FOUND HIM VERY LATINO, EVEN PERUVIAN) AND ABOVE ALL WITH CONTENT OF STATEMENT (WHICH STRESSED COOPERATION WITHOUT INTERVENTION.)

HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ROGERS' WORDS WERE AN ACCURATE EXPRESSION OF U.S. POLICY AND THE BASIS FOR OUR FUTURE ACTIONS. ROGERS ASSURED VELASCO THAT THIS WAS THE CASE AND REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY'S RECENT COMMUNICATION TO DE LA FLOR TO THIS EFFECT. VELASCO URGED MORE U.S. INTEREST IN
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THE HEMISPHERE AND LAMENTED THE FACT THAT OUR CONCERN WITH

OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD DETRACTED FROM OUR HEMISPHERE RESPONSIBILITIES. HE SAID THAT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE THE DESTINIES OF COUNTRIES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD WERE INTIMATELY RELATED TO THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ACTIONS.

3. VELASCO RECOMMENDED MORE TRAVEL TO LATIN AMERICA BY U.S. LEADERS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY NEXT YEAR WAS DISCUSSED. AT AN EARLIER MEETING, DE LA FLOR HAD RECOMMENDED FEBRUARY AS A CONVENIENT TIME FOR PERU AND POINTED OUT THE ADVANTAGE TO SUCH A VISIT PRIOR TO THE PLANNED BUENOS AIRES MFM.

4. VELASCO DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL THE ACTIONS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION TO ELIMINATE THE INJUSTICE OF THE PAST AND TO INCORPORATE THE LONG NEGLECTED AND EXPLOITED MAJORITY OF THE POPULACE INTO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT PEOPLE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE PERUVIAN PROCESS OR ARE OPPOSED TO IT CALL HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT COMMUNIST. HE CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THIS CHARGE SAYING THE PERUVIAN MILITARY COULD NEVER BE COMMUNIST. HE SAID THAT THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION IS NATIONALIST AND SOCIALIST IN NATURE AND ALTHOUGH THE GOP DESIRES TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA, IT KNOWS HOW TO DEFEND ITSELF AND IS ALERT TO AND ABLE TO CURTAIL COMMUNIST INROADS WHERE THEY OCCUR.

5. VELASCO REFERRED TO A WRITTEN STATEMENT BY WORLD BANK PRESIDENT ROBERT MCNAMARA WHICH HE SAID REPRESENTED THE TYPE OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS WHICH IS NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND THE PERUVIAN PROCESS. ROGERS ASSURED THE PRESIDENT THAT THE USG WAS AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND UNDERSTOOD AND SYMPATHIZED WITH THE PERUVIAN PROCESS.

6. VELASCO DESCRIBED PERU'S NEW PRESS LAW AND REASONS BEHIND IT (TO PUT THE PRESS AT THE SERVICE OF THE CAMPESINOS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION AND OUT OF THE HANDS OF A FEW PRIVILEGED FAMILIES) AND EXPLAINED HIS REASONS IN RECENT WEEKS FOR JAILING AND EXILING SOME 15 PERUVIANS WHO HE SAID WERE OPPOSITION ELEMENTS ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL
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ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO CREATE DIVISION IN THE ARMED FORCES AND TO FRUSTRATE KEY PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERU'S NEW PETROLEUM PIPELINE. VELASCO ADDED THAT CONTRARY TO THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER REVOLUTIONS SUCH AS THE MEXICAN, THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION WAS BEING CARRIED OUT WITHOUT BLOOD-SHED.

7. COMMENTS: IT IS CLEAR THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS'

ARRIVAL STATEMENT STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CHORD WITH PRESIDENT VELASCO AND A NUMBER OF PERUVIANS. IT RECEIVED FAVORABLE AND UNDISTORTED TREATMENT IN THE PRESS AND TV AND WAS COMMENTED UPON FAVORABLY BY A NUMBER OF KEY GOVERNMENT LEADERS AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION FOR VISITING DELEGATIONS HELD THE EVENING OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6. IT, ALONG WITH THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO DE LA FLOR AND ROGERS' PERSONAL CALL ON VELASCO, SHOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE VALUE TO OUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE SUSPICIONS AND ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INTERVENTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION TO THE REVOLUTION GOVERNMENT WITHIN PERU AND INTERNATIONALLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THESE SUSPICIONS RUN DEEP AND ARE FED BY OUR OWN NEWS SOURCES AS WELL AS BY OUR DETRACTORS (THE CUBANS, ET AL.) WITHIN PERU. THE TEMPTATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE GREAT TO BLAME OUTSIDE FORCES (IMPERIALISM, CIA, AND INTERAMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION, FOREIGN FASCIST REGIMES, EXILED OLIGARCHS, ETC.) FOR DOMESTIC PERUVIAN PROBLEMS AND OPPOSITION TO CERTAIN GOP EXCESSES OR MISTAKES.

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